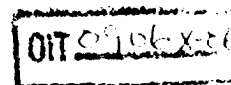


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16 October 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Information Technology

FROM:

Director of Information Resources

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SUBJECT: DI ADP Priorities and Strategy for FY87

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1. This memorandum is a follow-up to our discussion several weeks ago when I promised to provide you with a statement of the DI's data processing priorities for FY87 and an outline of a strategy for achieving them.

2. Our two major priorities for the fiscal year are universal connectivity to computing services and the transition of SAFE users to Delivery 3. During the past several weeks we have met with members of CSPO to explore various ways to accomplish our priorities. I believe that the strategy described below will enable us to succeed.

3. We have informed CSPO that OIR will provide funding for the purchase and installation of two 3090 CPUs for the Northside Computer Center and would like them operating as soon as possible. (The second 3090 is contingent upon receiving the \$5.8M in the new initiative.) The order for the first machine has been placed, and the next order will be submitted soon. Our desire is to have as much "horsepower" on the floor as soon as we can so that we can start to meet some, if not all, of the pent-up demand for access to AIM and SAFE in Northside. It also seems prudent to have the CPUs installed quickly so that we are positioned to take advantage of the installation of the PBX. Finally, early installation of the CPUs should enable us to satisfy our requirement for an additional 500 connections to Northside services.

4. I am aware that we may run into performance problems as we increase the number of connections to the Northside mainframes. This concern was brought to the attention of the DI ADP Advisory Panel, and it agreed that connectivity is critical to the Directorate even to the point that the Panel said it would be willing to accept a "BUSY-TRY-LATER" notification on a terminal rather than have no access whatsoever. In discussing this issue with CSPO, I was told that access to either AIM, SAFE or both applications could be monitored and adjusted to prevent overloading of the system. We also understand that the system capacity limitations in the will limit the number of analysts that may have concurrent access. Accordingly, a "BUSY-TRY-LATER" notification when the concurrency threshold is exceeded would

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SUBJECT: DI ADP Priorities and Strategy for FY87

also be required for [] accesses. With the increased possibility of an individual analyst receiving the "BUSY-TRY-LATER" notification, I am requesting that you provide an automatic disconnect for terminals that have been inactive for a specified period of time.

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5. It is extremely important that we transition the [] Delivery 1 SAFE users before the end of FY87. If we do not accomplish this task we will encounter severe DASD shortages. My people have assured me that if we start the transition training and conversion of Delivery 1 files and profiles by mid January we should make this deadline with time to spare. However, if the transition process is delayed for an extended period of time (four weeks or more) the schedule could be in jeopardy.

6. A related issue revolves around the question of when the DI receives Delivery 3. I request that the DI obtain this functionality as soon as possible--no later than March 1987. We need Delivery 3 for several reasons. First, Delivery 3 offers the DI a private index file (PIF) capability that will provide analysts with improved search and retrieval performance. In particular, the performance is superior to that offered by AIM where Delivery 2 private files reside. Thus, by obtaining Delivery 3 at an early date we can avoid converting a large number of Delivery 1 private files (incidentally, search speeds are generally faster in Delivery 1 than in Delivery 2) into the slower AIM folder system and then reconverting them into Delivery 3 PIFs. Second, the process to convert Delivery 1 SAFE files to Delivery 3 PIFs is much simpler and faster than converting from Delivery 2 to Delivery 3. Third, the longer we wait to introduce Delivery 3 the more negative the impact on the transition process. If we obtain Delivery 3 by March, then we can reconfigure the training courseware and move people directly from Delivery 1 to Delivery 3. The longer we wait for Delivery 3 the larger the double conversion activity becomes, thus posing a direct threat to completing transition by the end of the fiscal year.

7. As I mentioned, all of these issues have been discussed with senior CSPO representatives and they have concurred with the strategy that we have proposed. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

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